

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the above amendments be entered for purposes of the present application. Claims 1 to 14 are presented for consideration. Claims 1 to 14 have been amended to correct minor informalities and remove multiple dependencies from the claims therein. In the specification, page 9, line 1, has been amended because the paragraph refers to the properties of an artificial sweetener.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide indication that the drawings are accepted by the Examiner in the next formal communication.

This Preliminary Amendment is believed to be timely filed. If a petition for extension of time and/or any other fees are required, the Patent and Trademark Office is specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,  
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